

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOME 00617 172027Z

73 L

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /050 W
----- 053394

R 171500Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 383

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL LOME 0617

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, TO
SUBJECT: FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT MEATCHI'S "ARREST"

REF: LOME 0597

1. ACCORDING TO FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEATCHI "ARREST", EYADEMA WAS MOTIVATED BY IRRITATION THAT MEATCHI HAS BOYCOTTED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AIRPORT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CEREMONIES CONNECTED WITH PRESIDENTIAL TRAVELS. WHEN EYADEMA DID NOT SEE MEATCHI AT AIRPORT ON RETURN FROM GUINEA MARCH 10, HE ORDERED THAT MEATCHI BE CALLED IN FOR QUESTIONING. MEATCHI WAS PICKED UP THAT EVENING AND HIS HOUSE WAS SEARCHED. SEVERAL WEAPONS WERE FOUND.

2. INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED THAT MEATCHI IS WELL-KNOWN GUN BUFF, AND HIGH POWERED RIFLE MAY WELL HAVE BEEN GIVEN HIM BY DAYAN AT TIME WHEN MEATCHI'S FORTUNES AND ISRAELI-TOGOLESE RELATIONS WERE BETTER. IT ALSO ESTABLISHED THAT MEATCHI'S AIRPORT BOYCOTT RESULTED FROM HIS RESENTMENT OVER FAILURE TO GET NEW ASSIGNMENT AFTER HIS POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AGRICULTURE WAS ABOLISHED LAST YEAR IN CABINET REORGANIZATION AND OVER WIFE'S FAILURE TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LOME 00617 172027Z

RENOMINATED VICE-PRESIDENT OF RPT'S WOMEN'S SECTION. REPORTED

CONNECTION WITH KEREKOU DID NOT CHECK OUT.

3. OUTCOME OF INCIDENT IS MEATCHI HAS BEEN RELEASED AND ADMONISHED TO SHOW MORE RESPECT TO PRESIDENT IN FUTURE. HE HAS ALSO BEEN SUSPENDED FROM RPT CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THREE MONTHS.

4. COMMENT: MEATCHI'S "ARREST" IS ILLUSTRATION OF EYADEMA'S PENCHANT FOR USING ARBITRARY POWER TO KEEP POTENTIAL POLITICAL OPPOSITION OFF BALANCE. IT ALSO POINTS UP TO TOGOLESE VALUE EYADEMA PLACES ON CONSTANT DISPLAY OF POSITIVE LOYALTY. POLITICAL IMPACT OF WHAT NOW APPEARS TO BE MINOR INCIDENT IS MAGNIFIED BY OPAQUE MEDIUM OF RUMOR THROUGH WHICH MOST POLITICALLY AWARE TOGOLESE EVENTUALLY LEARN OF SUCH EVENTS.

RAWLS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, ARRESTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LOME00617
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760101-0243
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760352/aaaabtse.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LOME 597
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT MEATCHI'S "ARREST"
TAGS: PINS, TO, (EYADEMA, GNASSINGBE), (MEATCHI, IDRISOU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006